

Talking Points – Inter-agency Opioid Coordinating Council Meeting

September 24, 2020 – 1:00pm

- Lt. Governor Rutherford, members of the Coordinating Council, Jim Rzepkowski, Assistant Secretary of Labor on behalf of Labor Secretary Tiffany Robinson. I am pleased to provide an update on recently announce grant funding as well as our other efforts in this space. I am joined by Mary Keller, Special Grants Administrator at MD Labor.
- We've talked about loss and pain, but also recovery, I want to continue that shift in focus to recovery and how a job, moreover a career, is critical to recovery and an individual's self worth.
- This month, MD Labor was awarded \$4,589,064 from the United States Department of Labor as part of the *Support to Communities: Fostering Opioid Recovery through Workforce Development* grant.
- Only three other states were awarded this funding. (Ohio, Wisconsin, and Florida)
- As Dir. Schuh mentioned, Labor will disperse the funding to seven Local Workforce Areas, representing 14 jurisdictions across the state that have experienced negative social and economic impacts as a result of the opioid crisis. These jurisdictions include:
 - Western MD Consortium: Garrett, Allegany, Washington
 - Frederick
 - Anne Arundel
 - Baltimore County
 - Baltimore City
 - Susquehanna region: Cecil & Harford
 - Upper Shore: Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Talbot, Queen Anne's
- More than 700 Marylanders are expected to participate, including those who
 - have been impacted by opioid substance use disorders (SUD) or,

- Those who seek to transition to professions that support individuals with SUD and need new or upgraded skills to better serve struggling or at-risk individuals
- Participants will receive a wide array of comprehensive services based upon individual treatment plans, including occupational training, career and supportive services, and outpatient recovery care.
- Ultimately, participants will have the opportunity to obtain employment in in-demand sectors, including healthcare, information technology, transportation and logistics, construction, and manufacturing.
- Partnership is vital to the success of this grant, and each Local Area is partnering with various stakeholders, including Local Health Departments, Recovery and Wellness Centers, occupational training providers, Community Colleges, and local government entities.
- Labor would like to thank the Opioid Operational Command Center and Maryland Department of Health for their unwavering partnership on Labor's efforts.
- Start date is October 1st and the period of performance is 48 months.

Talking Points on other efforts

OUR National Health Emergency Grant

- This new USDOL grant award comes on the heels of Labor completing a National Health Emergency Grant totaling \$1.9 through USDOL ending June 30, 2020 in which more than 1,300 individuals impacted by the opioid crisis were served. Of that, \$1.1 was invested in OWIF (16 different entities, mostly non-profits) and \$700,000+ went to 8 LWAs.

Department of Health funding

- As Dr. Jones stated, Labor also partnered with the Department of Health, which provided \$200,000 to the Opioid Workforce Innovation Fund in 2019.
- Three sub-grantees were awarded funding:

- Civic Works, located in Baltimore City, provided occupational training in the green space for individuals impacted by the opioid crisis
- Dr. MJ, LLC, located in Prince George's County, trained 50 Certified Peer Recovery Specialists
- Voices of Hope, located in Harford County, is training 25 individuals to become Certified Peer Recovery Specialists
- **Just recently, we learned that Labor will receive a little over \$1 million from the Department of Health to support the Opioid Workforce Innovation Fund**
- It is anticipated that at least 14 organizations will receive funding and at least 175 individuals will be served.

Opioid Operational Command Center funding

- In 2019, Labor received funding from the OOC to pilot a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist training at the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women (MCIW)
- Twenty-three women completed classroom training, but were unable to begin earning the 500 work/volunteer hours required for certification due to COVID-19 restrictions within the prisons.
- **In August 2020, Labor received additional funds from the OOC to continue to support these women as they work towards certification.**
- Funds will be used for curriculum review, Continuing Education Credits (CEUs), and certification costs.

Women's Bureau funding

- Lastly, in 2018, Labor received \$650,000 from the Women's Bureau, an arm of USDOL
- The funding is being used for a Pre-Apprenticeship Hospitality Pilot at MCIW, and to fund two larger OWIF-type projects
- MCIW's Pre-Apprenticeship Hospitality Pilot
 - Is in close partnership with DPSCS, American Hotel and Lodging Association
 - First cohort launched with 12 women enrolled, was close to completion when COVID-19 shuttered MCIW

- Thanks to Labor's close partnership with DPSCS, the instructor is preparing to begin classroom instruction again with strict safety protocols in place
- Two additional cohorts are planned before the grant ends in September 2021
- There was a Competitive RFP through State's procurement process
 - Two sub-grantees were awarded funding in February 2020
 - Maryland New Directions, located in Baltimore City, will train 50 women for careers in transportation/logistics and hospitality. In addition to job training, case management, support services, and wellness services will be provided.
 - PIVOT, a Baltimore City based community reentry and workforce development program for women, will engage 45 women, enrolling them into their 8 week program where they will be exposed to job readiness, group therapy, and intensive case management. Following the 8 week program, women will be placed into employment or referred, as appropriate, to occupational training opportunities
 - Both organizations are working through COVID-19 related challenges and are expected to meet and/or exceed all deliverables due to an extension granted from the Women's Bureau to September 30, 2021.